

**REMARKS**

Claims 13-30 were rejected in the Office action. Claims 13-30 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 31-55 are introduced. The new claims find basis in the specification and in claims already on file, as shown in the following table.

<b>NEW CLAIM</b>	<b>SUPPORT IN SPECIFICATION OR IN PREVIOUSLY PENDING CLAIM</b>
31	claim 18
32	claim 14
33	claim 15
34	claim 17
35	claim 24
36	claim 19
37	claim 20
38	claim 21
39	claim 22
40	claim 23
41	claim 26
42	claim 29
43	specification p. 2, l. 13-17
44	claim 25
45	claim 26
46	claim 27
47	specification p. 3, l. 16-21
48	specification p. 2, l. 35-37
49	claim 28
50	claim 29
51	claim 30
52	claim 20
53	claim 21
54	claim 22
55	specification p. 2, l. 25-34

Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by the new claims. Claims 13-30 were rejected for alleged obviousness-type double patenting and for alleged anticipation, and these rejections are addressed hereafter.

Rejection for Alleged Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

Claims 13-30 were rejected were alleged obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-2, 4-6 and 7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,376,886 B1. The rejection is moot as a terminal disclaimer is filed herewith to expedite prosecution.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 13-17 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,683,864. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is moot in view of new claims 31-55. Claims 31, 36, 44 and 51 in this new claim set are independent, and as shown in the table above, include the limitations of previously pending claims 18, 19, 25 and 30, which were not subject to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Accordingly, the new claims are not anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,683,864 and it is respectfully requested that the Office withdraw the rejection.

**CONCLUSIONS**


The rejection of claims 13-30 for alleged obviousness-type double patenting is rendered moot by the terminal disclaimer filed herewith. The rejection of claims 13-17 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is rendered moot by the new claims as independent claims 31, 36, 44 and 51 include the limitations of previously pending claims 18, 19, 25 and 30, which were not subject to the rejection.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 322732000401. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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